

ABSTRACT

F-6-30

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 81(84)

Emmitsburg, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

1767 (reset 1902 at
redetermined site)

Milestone No. 81(84) is an original milestone of 1767, at its original site, as redetermined and reset in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 81st horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of their survey lines run and marked during their 1763-68 commission to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. As with all original West Line monuments, this milestone is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, said to have been originally about 12" square by about 4½' long, and cut to stand about 3' above ground, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in a plain shallow circle panel near the top. When reset in 1902, it presumably stood at about its present height of 13", since the iron band used for repair remains around the stone at ground level. It is in only fair condition, with most embellishments indistinct due to excessive weathering, and a large chunk chipped out of the top southwest corner, as well as many chips along all edges, including a bullet-chip on the west side. It seems firmly in place although slightly skewed clockwise, and still measures close to its original 12". On the national and state levels, No. 81(84) is significant primarily as one of a series of 135 original monuments still defining the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
 HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 81st Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 81 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 84)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
 STREET & NUMBER off west side of US 15

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 19

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Frederick / PA: Adams

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☒ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒

PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ not applicable

STATUS

N/A

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER State boundary marker**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland / Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION N/A

(see surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Frederick County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

F-6-30 entered 6/23/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE ^{redetermined} 1902
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 81(84) marks Mason and Dixon's 81st horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in fair condition, unaltered, though repaired and reset in ^{the}redetermined original site in 1902, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is still primarily rural, sparsely settled, hilly farmland interspersed with deciduous woodlands following the numerous streams. The site is within Election District 5 of Frederick County, MD; Freedom Township of Adams County, PA; about 1¼ miles northeast of the center of the town of Emmitsburg, MD; about 1850' due west of the recently widened and realigned US 15; about 300' north of the end of the private lane to the new brick Robert White house; about 3' east of a northwest-southeast wire fence, between two cultivated fields in a narrow, cedar-tree hedgerow well ^{and thus protected} camouflaged by poison ivy and brambles. It cannot be seen from any road or the house and barn, nor easily from closeby.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, typically about 12" square by about 4½' long with a low pyramidal top, cut to stand as a post about 3' above ground, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel, close to the top. According to the Resurvey (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 88): ^{in 1902} "This monument was lying on the ground, broken. It had to be repaired and its position to be redeter-

mined." It was also reset to stand (presumably) about the height it remains today: about 13" above ground; and is close to 12" square. The iron band used in the 1902 repair remains in place at ground level, and though the stone seems firmly set it also seems slightly skewed (by compass) clockwise. All surfaces are ^{very} weathered and embellishments indistinct. A large chunk has been chipped out of the top southwest corner; there is a bullet-chip on the west side; and all edges are chipped.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		boundary surveying	

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 81(84) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and the milestone set two years later, where it remains to this day, although repaired and reset more securely in 1902 at a redetermined site, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), No. 81(84) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Emmitsburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 30165, northing 439900

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Frederick

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Adams

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason & Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust & Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

11/16/80 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

F-6-30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

EMMITSBURG QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1953 PHOTO REVISÉ 1971
SCALE: 1" = 303' 2000' 17' 30" 304'







